

Customer No. 24498
Internal Docket No. PF980079
Office Action Date: 09/05/2008

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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-13 are pending.

Claim 1 is amended herein to correct a typographical error.

Rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US Pat Pub 2002/0012358) in view of Saito et al. (US Pat No 6,751,221, hereinafter Saito)

Applicants submit that for at least the reasons discussed below claims 1-13 are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of Sato and Saito.

Applicants' claim 1 includes, in part, the features of: modeling the wireless bridge by each real portal in the form of virtual buses and virtual portals, so that the modeled wireless bridge comprises only virtual bridges with a maximum of two virtual portals. (Emphasis added).

The virtual bridge is described in applicants' specification, for example page 5, which includes that each node furthermore comprises a virtual bridge for each possible wireless link with another node. A wireless link is represented by a virtual bus. A virtual bridge comprises two virtual portals, connected respectively to the internal virtual bus of the node and to the virtual bus representing the wireless link.

Thus, as recited in claim 1 "...in the form of virtual buses and virtual portals, so that the modeled wireless bridge comprises only virtual bridges with a maximum of two virtual portals."

The Office action on page 2 points to Sato, paragraph 45 as teaching the claimed features. Applicants respectfully disagree that such a feature is described by Sato. Sato relates to an apparatus and a method for wirelessly coupling standardized networks and non-standardized devices (see par. 7). Sato discloses a virtual network in pars. 44-47. Sato describes in par. 44 that: "Each virtual network is a model that is formed with reference to the respective real half bridge, the non-standardized nodes, and the virtual half bridges in the other virtual networks." Thus, Sato is representing a bus comprising all nodes of the wireless network. Sato permits the addressing of each of the nodes of the bus. This is different from the claimed invention as recited in part above.

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Paragraph 45 of Sato describes that a virtual half bridge is modeled to be complimentary to a real half bridge and virtual proxy nodes are modeled to represent the respective non-standardized nodes in the respective subsystems. This is different from the modeling recited in applicants' claim 1. The virtual network of Sato is not intended to represent the wireless link between two real portals and does not teach or even suggest applicants' claimed features. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Sato doesn't disclose the modeling step as alleged.

Furthermore, it is admitted in the Office action that Sato doesn't disclose the steps of emulating and reserving a passband.

The Office action turns to Saito as teaching the features missing in Sato. Applicants respectfully disagree that Saito shows the claimed emulating and reserving a passband features.

According to applicants' specification, for example page 3, lines 4-11 the centralizing of the global register of passband availability function into a single register for all the modeled buses of the wireless bridge makes it possible to make passband reservations globally for this wireless bridge. By transmitting passband reservation requests received on modeled buses to this single register, the centralizing of the function is made transparent to a node making the reservation. In an example embodiment, the register is initialized to a bandwidth amount and decremented each time a reservation is made. For example, page 13 describes that in the case where an isochronous connection comprises several wireless links, the wireless bridge passband availability register is decremented as many times as necessary, as and when reservations are made.

Nowhere are the features of emulating a global register or reserving passband with the global register described in either Sato or Saito. Saito deals in general with transport of IP over IEEE1394 networks. Saito doesn't disclose any modeling of a wireless bridge. Saito doesn't disclose or even suggest any emulating of a global passband availability and any reserving of passband. Saito deals with wireless only in figure 41, which is out of the scope of the wireless bridge of claim 1.

In view of the above, applicants submit that present claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Sato and Saito.

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Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 and include at least the above distinguishing features in addition to further features not found in the combination of Sato and Saito. For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Independent claim 13 includes, in part, the features of: providing a global register of passband availability for the set of wireless links of the wireless bridge; and reserving passband with the global register for each wireless link participating in a communication between two portals.

Applicants essentially repeat the above discussion of claim 1 pointing out why claim 13 is distinguished from the combination of Sato and Saito. For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejection of claim 13 be withdrawn.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited in view of the above remarks. If the Examiner has any further concerns regarding the above, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
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